The Berean Scope
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The Harlot: Jerusalem, Not Rome
The Four Forensic Fingerprints of Revelation 17
The Berean Scope
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The image of the woman riding the Beast in Revelation 17 is the most debated "Mystery" in the Bible. Tradition points to Rome, but at The Berean Scope, we don't rely on tradition. We triangulate the Truth using the internal DNA of the Word.

To identify the "Woman," we must look at her fingerprints.

1. The Fingerprint of Blood

Revelation 18:24 says of this city: "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."

If we ask the Scripture, "What city is guilty of the blood of all the prophets?" we do not have to guess. Jesus gives the answer directly in Matthew 23:34-37:

"Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify... so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth... O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!"

Jesus identifies Jerusalem as the one responsible for the blood of the prophets—the exact charge leveled against the Harlot.

2. The Fingerprint of Adornment

The Woman is described as being "arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup" (Revelation 17:4).

Where do we see this specific wardrobe in the Word? In Exodus 28, God commands the garments of the High Priest and the Tabernacle to be made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen. The Woman is wearing the exact colors and materials of the Jewish Sanctuary.

A pagan city like Rome was never "married" to God, so it could not be a "harlot" in the biblical sense. In the language of Scripture, a harlot is a Covenant Wife who has become unfaithful. God describes this transformation in Ezekiel 16, where He tells Jerusalem He adorned her with gold and jewels, but she used His gifts to "play the whore" with the nations.

3. The Fingerprint of Location

For those who still doubt the geography, the Book of Revelation provides a definitive answer in chapter 11. It mentions a "Great City" (the same title given to the Woman):

"And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified." (Revelation 11:8)

Jesus was not crucified in Rome. He was crucified in Jerusalem.

4. The Nail in the Coffin: The Hatred of the Kings

This is the most critical piece of evidence. Revelation 17:16 says:

"And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire."

If the Woman were Rome, this makes no sense. The nations of history have largely admired, emulated, and built upon the Roman system of law and empire. But look at the world today. We are witnessing a global "shaking" where the nations—the "Kings of the Earth"—are increasingly united in a singular, visceral hatred for Jerusalem.

The "Great City" has tried to navigate the global political landscape for security and status, but the Word reveals the inevitable betrayal. The world system does not want a "Covenant Woman" in its way.

5. The Levitical Sentence

Finally, we look at how the Woman is destroyed. She is burned with fire. Under the Law of Moses, this was the specific execution reserved for the daughter of a priest who “profanes herself by playing the whore”:

“And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by whoring… she shall be burned with fire.” (Leviticus 21:9)

Jerusalem is not just any city. She is the city of the High Priest, the city of the Temple, the city set apart as holy above all others. When the Beast and the Kings turn on her and burn her with fire, they are unknowingly executing the Levitical sentence upon an unfaithful Covenant City.

6. The Lovers Who Despise Her

The prophet Jeremiah saw this coming centuries before John’s vision on Patmos. Speaking directly to Jerusalem as she adorned herself in scarlet and gold to attract the nations, God warned through Jeremiah:

“And you, O desolate one, what do you mean that you dress in scarlet, that you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, that you enlarge your eyes with paint? In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life.” (Jeremiah 4:30)

The “Mystery” of the Woman is the tragedy of unfaithful Jerusalem. She was the city meant to be the “Light of the World,” but she became “Babylon” by rejecting her King and trusting in the power of the nations.

She dressed in the gold and scarlet of the sanctuary to woo the world, but the Word reveals the inevitable end: her lovers will despise her, and they will seek her life.

The “Great City” has been identified. The Scope is focused. And the time of her “shaking” is at hand.

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Investigation 17:11
Searching the Word to prove the Mystery.

— Point Seventeen Eleven (17:11)

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